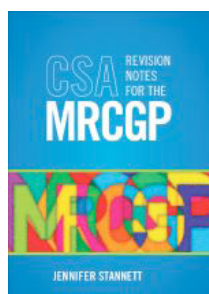


Book Reviews

CSA REVISION NOTES FOR THE MRCGP

Jennifer Stannett, ISBN 978-1-904842-86-6, 186 pages, March 2011, £ 24-99, Scion Publishing Ltd



Several years ago postgraduate training in general practice received a complete overhaul and the examination now consists of a written exam called the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) and a Clinical Skills Examination (CSA). The CSA is an OSCE type exam where students deal with a series of clinical scenarios and are assessed in three key areas; data gathering, clinical management and interpersonal skills.

This book includes a wide range of clinical topics based on the MRCGP syllabus to help prepare prospective candidates. There are no glaring omissions of topics. For the current assessment there is not a detailed marking scheme and conceptual marking is used. The examiner arrives at a mark by weighing up observed behaviours which are positive indicators and other behaviours which are negative. Therefore it might have been helpful if the book had included some examples of negative behaviours.

Most of the evidence based references relate to NICE guidelines which is appropriate. The role plays that are provided would be useful for the prospective candidates to work through either in pairs or small groups, though at times the details for both doctor and role player are scant.

The Health Promotion scenarios involving smoking and obesity should have included some reference to the “readiness for change” consulting model. I also feel that in the meningitis station the hospital based investigations detailed are largely irrelevant with regard to general practice.

Some of the scenarios also simply list treatment options, while some reference to pros and cons of different treatments should be included e.g. HRT for managing menopausal symptoms.

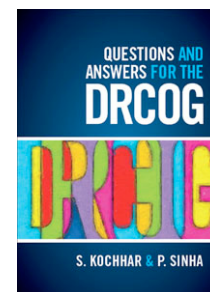
This lack of balance in some of the scenarios may be due to the fact that the author appears to have written this book on her own and might have benefited from having an editorial panel to assist her. I also think that constructive feedback from readers should actively be sought as this would improve subsequent editions. However, this should not detract from the overall assessment of this book which will undoubtedly

be a useful aid for candidates doing the nMRCGP and would also be helpful to GP Trainers not only for their continuing professional development but would also give them more of an insight of what is expected of their Registrars in this novel form of assessment.

Drew Gilliland

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR THE DRCOG

Suneeta Kochhar and Prabha Sinha. Scion Publishing, Pages 146, ISBN: 978-1-904842-87-3



This book is written by Suneeta Kochhar, a GP principal and Prabha Sinha, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in East Sussex. It is aimed at candidates preparing for the new style DRCOG exam. The book includes a brief overview of the new examination, the syllabus and three complete revision papers reflecting the current format of the exam.

Each revision paper is specifically designed to be answered under exam conditions and consists of 30 extended matching questions (EMQ), 18 single best answer (SBA) or ‘best of five’ questions and 40 multiple choice questions (MCQ). The questions are based on common clinical scenarios spanning a wide area of obstetrics and gynaecology, including contraception and termination of pregnancy.

The ‘answers and explanations’ section at the end of each exam paper is the real strength of this book. It gives a detailed explanation for each question, references and up to date evidence-based information where necessary. The explanations are thorough and emphasize the salient points while the references encourage self-directed learning.

There aren’t many books for candidates preparing for the restructured DRCOG exam and the authors should be praised for their hard work in meeting the high demand. This book is concise, clearly laid out and user-friendly. It is an excellent revision guide, which enables the candidates to improve their knowledge, is relevant to general practice, and helps master the technique of answering the questions.

Although this book is primarily aimed at the candidates attempting the new style DRCOG exam, it can be equally beneficial to those who are preparing for the MRCGP Applied Knowledge Test and also to any other professionals with an interest in women’s health, to update their knowledge in this field.

Janitha Costa